

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

38506

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT 1. State Fuel Depot in Varna
2. Bulgarian Petroleum Deposits

REPORT

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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The State Fuel Depot in Varna (now Stalin) covers an area approximately 250 x 100 meters in size. It is bordered as follows: the canal between Varna Lake and the sea, on the north; the Black Sea, on the east; a branch canal, on the west. It is enclosed by a barbed wire fence installed on cement columns which are about two meters high.
2. Four large, round concrete tanks for the storage of liquid fuels, each about 10 meters high and 15 meters in diameter, are located approximately 20 meters from the canal, in the middle of the area. Water installations, arranged in rows in a checkerboard fashion, are built above the tanks which are sprayed abundantly with water in the summer.
3. Five or six smaller tanks are located to the east and three smaller tanks to the west of the four large tanks. These smaller tanks, made of iron, resemble a tank car, but are larger. Each of these tanks is approximately 10 meters high and 2-2.5 meters in diameter. They are supported by two concrete pedestals.
4. The tanks are filled and emptied by a system of pipes which are concentrated in the southern section of the depot area where the pumping station is located.

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5. This State fuel depot is chiefly for Rumanian liquid fuels which are sent to all parts of Bulgaria. The liquid fuels are shipped by trains running from Varna directly to the storage area. [redacted] the shipment of the fuels by tankers, but stated that there is an unloading dock on the branch canal in this area. He does not know how the liquid fuels are shipped from Rumania to Varna.

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6. [redacted] during the spring of 1953 approximately 100 tanks, chiefly filled with mazut, arrived from Rumania for the "Petrol" Fuel Depot.¹

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7. In addition to the fuel tanks there are three or four other installation in the storage area.

8. Approximately 15 militiamen from the "Special Militia" (Osobenna Militsiya) guard the storage area. There are two militia posts in the area, one near the entrance on the south side and the other one at the canal.

9. This fuel depot existed prior to 9 September 1944 and was used by the Germans. A railroad was designed and built especially to serve the needs of the depot.

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[redacted]

civilians work at the depot.

Bulgarian Petroleum Deposits

10. In September 1951, geological research was conducted for petroleum deposits near Varna on the new naval base area east of the road to Asparukhovo (N 43-11, E 27-54), Varna Okoliya, and in the vicinity of the railroad depot of the city of Varna. However, since the results of this research did not indicate any petroleum deposits, the geological group moved to another location.

11. In the fall of 1952, [redacted] petroleum deposits were discovered somewhere on the seashore between Balchik and Varna, east of the highway which connects these two cities. Preparations, constructions of installations, and the delivery of necessary machinery and equipment were made at this location. Two unidentified Soviets were in charge of the work.²

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